

Living the Kingdom Life - Part 8
Me'od - With all Your Very?
Study Guide

- We have been learning now for several weeks what it means to live the kingdom life and as we have studied this, we have seen that Jesus modeled this for us in every way while he walked on the earth. He was and is a living, breathing example for us to follow. Hopefully by now, you have somewhat memorized the below quote by Dallas Willard. Take some time again to read through it, meditate on it, and discuss it.

I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live my life if he were me. I am learning how to do everything I do in the manner that he did all that he did.

- And with that in mind, we have been asking this question each and every week:

Is it possible for the whole of my existence to be the focus of discipleship?

Think about, or talk about what it means for the whole of your existence to be about discipleship. Do you think it's possible for one to get to a point of following Jesus every waking minute?

- Take some time to once again read through the Shema together.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NLT

4 Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. 5 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

In Mark 12, Jesus adds another command taken from Leviticus calling these two the greatest of commandments.

Leviticus 19:18 NLT

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

- The focus this week is the phrase, “with all of your strength.” The Hebrew word for strength, ***“me’od, means “very”*** and is a common adverb that is used the same way as we use the word ***“very”*** to intensify another adverb. Imagine when Moses was sharing this with the

people and He says to them: Love the Lord your God with all of you **VERY!** It's like a song that does not resolve at the end. Take some time this week to do a word study on your own. Use www.blueletterbible.com as a resource and take the time to watch this video below:

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/meod-strength/>

- Most believe that the Hebrew writers left the ending of this phrase intentionally ambiguous. God's plan was for them to read or hear the Scripture, and it move them to meditate on what it actually means. It would cause them to stop and ponder on what this odd sentence structure was all about. Discuss a little bit why it's important to study God's Word carefully, sometimes working through small details such as different interpretations and meanings of words or passages.
- Ultimately, we said that this is interpreted, "Loving God with all of your MUCHNESS." Tim Mackie says if ME'OD can intensify any word's meaning to total capacity, then this final thing that you use to love God isn't a thing at all, it's actually **EVERYTHING**. Discuss what it means to love God with every possibility and every opportunity. What does it look like to put all of your effort into loving God and loving your neighbor?
- In the New Testament, Jewish scholars who translated the Bible from Hebrew to Greek used the Greek word, "dunamis." We get our word "dynamite" from this Greek word. This word means "power" or "might." Read the following New Testament Scriptures and discuss how they all tie into loving God with all of our power and might:

Galatians 6:9

2 Timothy 2:15

1 Cor. 10:31

1 Cor. 9:24-25

- Some ancient Aramaic translations of the Bible translate this word to mean, "wealth." So that when you read the phrase, "with all of my very," you are actually reading, "with all of my increase." Read Luke 16:13 and 1 Timothy 6:9-10 and meditate on or discuss the importance of being financially responsible to the Lord.